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ABSTRACT

In recent years numerous investigations into the situation of youth in the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) have been conducted. All concur that the position of young people in West Germany has undergone a fundamental change in the last 25 years. In 1983 the Inquiry Commission of the German Federal Parliament studying "Protests of youth in the democratic state" presented its final report, which contributed to correcting some of the derogatory generalizations about young people. Two and one-half years after the Inquiry report the EMNID Institute stated in a 1985 study: "The phase of insecurity among youth at the start of the eighties is apparently over." The study found that in contrast to the youth of 25 years ago the youth of today did not rate "work" so highly; however, the degree of change was fairly small. The changes seem to be more marked in relation to "morals" and "religion." The young people said the most important political tasks were the fight against unemployment, especially unemployment among youth, protection of the environment, and the securing of peace. Additional information items included in this issue are: legal measures for aid to youth, state encouragement to youth, activities of the National Commission for the International Year of Youth, the youth associations, local initiatives, foreign youth in West Germany, youth exchanges under the German-French youth scheme, a glossary, an 11-item bibliography, and a listing of 11 important addresses. (BZ)

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Special Report

Youth in the Year of Youth

- A Situation Report -

by

Cem Akalin

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The image of German youth

- "What is youth like? -

Rebellious	- or simply committed ?
Impudent	- or simply direct ?
Soft	- or simply more thoughtful ?
Negative	- or simply has another set of values ?
Has no respect for age	- or simply repaying like with like ?
Blinkered specialists with no all-round education	- or simply victims of our school system ?
Objectors/shirkers	- or simply possessed of a conscience ?
Slovenly	- or are interior values simply more important than outward appearances ?

Now tell me what youth is like.
But first you must know.
Seeing is not knowing.
hearing is not understanding.
To solve the "generation conflict the only things that help are talking, toleranceand listening."

These are the reflections of a 15-year old girl about the contemporary image of youth in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It is difficult to categorise "youth." There is no such thing as "youth" only numerous different young people: pop, punks, mods, freaks, greens, lefties, autonomes, flipped-out. But they are also liberals and conservatives. They range from the politically committed to the fanatical football fans, from break-dancers to Baghwan disciples. It is perhaps this variety in the picture of German youth that leads to the generalised judgments encountered so often among the older generations. They are either unpolitical or too revolutionary, they are either too sloppy in their dress or too fashionable. They are either the "no-future generation", the "negative culture" or simply the "sloppies" or some other superficial epithet.

Youth, from a historical-sociological standpoint, is a fact of life, observes the Munich sociologist Walter Hornstein. Youth is in such a permanent state of rapid change that any attempt to determine a tendency is out of date the moment it is undertaken. In recent years - and particularly in the "International Year of Youth " (IJJ) - there have been numerous investigations into the situation of youth in the Federal Republic of Germany.

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In general it can be said that young people have not made sufficient use of the opportunities presented by these enquiries to exhibit a more thorough picture of their generation. The period between childhood and adulthood is no longer regarded principally as a transitory stage but to a large extent as an "autarchic" step in human self-realisation with its own precisely defined demands.

In the course of the public debate on the situation of youth today many prejudices have taken root: people talk about poor career and educational opportunities, increasing criminality, drug abuse, increasing neglect of the youthful urban proletariat and finally of a "change in values." Hornstein, who has thoroughly investigated this climate of opinion, says what is required is a new definition of the social role of youth.

Is it a fact that young people have completely turned away from the values of previous generations? Are they today really a completely different sociological phenomenon?

The position of young people in the Federal Republic of Germany has undergone a fundamental change in the last 25 years. Whereas, for example, in 1962 only 20 per cent of the 16-18 age group were still attending school while the majority already had jobs or were trainees, the numbers who are at school in this age group today have trebled and only one out of 20 is in employment. Almost one quarter of today's school leavers are qualified for university compared with 14.4 per cent in 1960. The period of youth has been constantly extended. Young people sit on school benches for longer and start their careers later.

Thus they remain dependent on their environment, their parents and their teachers longer. There has been a general change in self-awareness as a result of the rising level of education. Every generation of youth - using the contemporary means at its disposal - has tried to break away from its elders and establish its own boundaries. The moral outrage which the Boogie Woogie and the Rock'n Roll called forth in the Fifties can hardly be imagined today. Anyone in the Federal Republic of Germany turning on their television set in 1967 and 1968 to see the news of the day regularly saw pictures of young people demonstrating and occasionally running amok. At that time there was general agreement that the "unrest" had seized young people as a whole.

Can one really speak of a "change in values" if young people today, responding to the changed conditions under which they live, seek to find "their own way" with new means.

The Frankfurt sociologists Klaus Allerbeck and Wendy Hoag took a closer look at the question of "changed values" together with many others. What was interesting about this investigation was the unusual procedure. In order to obtain as far as possible a result that was precisely measurable, the two sociologists took a questionnaire from 1962 and repeated it word for word. The young people they questioned were presented with the same statements used by the researchers in their 1962 investigation. The results were recently published by the German Youth Institute in Munich. The Federal Ministry for Youth, Families and Health took over the financing as a contribution to the International Year of Youth. The title of the publication - "These young people again."

The questioning was carried out in 1983 among youth aged between 16 and 18. So far as vocational work goes Allerbeck and Hoag found a change of attitude since 1962. In contrast to the youth of 25 years ago the youth of today did not rate "work" so highly. However the degree of change was fairly small; those who claimed they could be "just as happy without work" only increased from 6.1 to 8.3 per cent.

Questioned: Every person has his own idea of the significance of work in his life. Can you tell me which of these views comes closest to your idea?

Answer:	1983 in %	1962 in %
Happy even without work	8.3	6.1
A little work makes for happiness	48.6	38.2
Without work happiness hardly possible	37.8	42.4
Only happy with work	4.0	13.1

A similar result was arrived at in 1983 by the SINUS Institute on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Families and Health. The statement "If I had enough money I would not work" was rejected by 56 per cent of those questioned between the ages of 15 and 30 while 23 per cent only endorsed it under certain conditions.

The changes seem to be more marked in relation to "morals" and "religion." The majority of young people questioned in 1962

thought it "important" or "very important" that a woman "is married when she has a child." In 1983 this proportion is "dramtically reduced" according to Allerbeck and Hoag.

It is the same with the proportion of youth having religious ties. The EMNID Institute analysing the "spiritual situation of young people" in 1985 on behalf of the Federal Minister for Education and Science, questioned the 14 to 21 year-old age group and came to the conclusion that "religion no longer plays any great role in the life of young people as a whole."

"Unquestionably there have been some changes in values," say Allerbeck and Hoag summing up, "but they seem to be considerably slighter than commonly supposed. Today's generation differs from earlier ones principally in that they, to an unprecedented extent, 'feel as young people' and identify with those of the same age. This has consequences in all areas of their lives. If one overhastily labels this 'change of values' all one gains is a new cliche. If on the other hand one interprets the changes as the result of changes in the social structure, one gains not only in understanding but understands, for example, in the different kinds of solidarising potentialities, the processes that in turn lead to the changes in appearances."

Inquiry Commission: "Protests of youth in the democratic state"

At the beginning of 1983 the Inquiry Commission of the German Federal parliament into "Protests of youth in the democratic state" presented its final report. This established that in sections of youth there was some uncertainty about the future and the state. Concern about education, training, the destruction of nature and the endangering of peace led to an "alienation between youth and the state" the report said. The report contributed to correcting some of the derogatory generalisations about young people. The result was a reappraisal and a more intensive study by politicians of the young generation and its situation. The parliamentary state secretary to the Federal Minister for Youth, Families and Health, Irmgard Karwatzki, declared in the German Federal parliament: "These young people are not a generation that has been badly brought up and mollycoddled and is dedicated to the lust for consumption. Consumer-fetishism is instead the accusation levelled by the young at many adults." Many young people do not find it easy to "find their own way in a complex, dynamic industrialised society."

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The state secretary called for a concept for a social policy " that would contribute to giving young people the feeling of being accepted, of being at home, of being trusted and able to put down roots."

Two-and-a-half years after the Inquiry report the EMNID Institute stated in a 1985 study: "The phase of insecurity among youth at the start of the Eighties is apparently over."

According to the report 71 per cent of the 14-21 year-olds expressed their satisfaction with democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany. The young people said the most important political tasks were the fight against unemployment, especially unemployment among youth, protection of the environment and the securing of peace.

Problems for priority treatment

Question: "The Federal government has to occupy itself with a number of problems. Where has the government at this moment a lot to catch up on, where must it in future do more?"

Answer	in %
1. Fight against unemployment	94
2. Eradicate youth unemployment	86
3. Strengthen protection of the environment	82
4. Secure peace	68
5. Solve problem of foreigners	63
6. Expand social welfare	43
7. Reduce tax burden	40
8. Guarantee price stability and living standards	34
9. Increase development aid	33
10. Improve education	31
11. Lower State borrowing	31
12. Accelerate unification of Europe	29
13. Increase economic growth	27

It is noticeable that young people in the Federal Republic of Germany appear to see no connection between economic growth and combatting unemployment. Equality for women is given a high priority. This is however principally a major priority for girls (66 per cent). Only 28 per cent of youths plead for equality for their women contemporaries.

Foreign policy is the last thing in the scale of values of youth. This is astonishing if one considers that securing peace is given one of the highest priorities.

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This does not mean however that German youth is not interested in other countries. On the contrary: 64 per cent of those questioned would like to go abroad for a year or two.

Most important political tasks

Question: "The following list contains various political tasks. Please give me those which you regard as specially important."

Answer	in %
1. Reducing unemployment	83
2. Protection of the environment	82
3. Securing peace	80
4. Reducing youth unemployment	79
5. Equality of women	46
6. Social policy	40
7. Development aid	39
8. Fostering of the family	39
9. Securing pensions	37
10. Internal security	35
11. Price stability	32
12. Fair system of taxation	30
13. Economic policy	27
14. Dismantling bureaucracy	26
15. Education policy (school policy)	24
16. Energy policy	22
17. European policy	18
18. Friendship with the USA	18
19. Closer relations to the Soviet Union	15

It is understandable that unemployment should be the main focus of interest in the Federal Republic today - about 600,000 young people under 25 have no employment. Numerically they are the worst affected group of the population. More and more people have to give up their original choice of occupation and orientate themselves on what is available. Many of those who have no training and no job regard themselves as being "shut out" and frequently as "useless." Unemployment not only lowers the living standards of people but restricts the opportunities for creating one's own lifestyle. "A policy for youth," says Irmgard Karwatzki, "must be more than youth policy. It is at the same time a policy for society and social policy."

Legal measures for aid to youth

In the Federal Republic of Germany the efforts of the state on behalf of youth include protection laws (e.g. Youth labour protection law), material aid (e.g. the law to further training) or social security (e.g. maintenance security law). Other forms of help for youth are left to the initiative of the so-called

"free representatives." According to the current Youth-welfare law all measures for the furthering of youth welfare are treated as youth help.

Youth help comprises the welfare of youth and the care of youth. The youth welfare helps damaged or endangered young people as well as those in need of protection by means of measures - particularly educational - aimed at integrating them in society. The care of youth comprises all measures aimed at life fulfilment and the development of youth. These include for instance, youth associations and the development of youth work facilities (youth hostels, training schools, etc.).

The field of youth care covers especially measures of religious, political and leisure education, youth holidays, sport, health, international contacts and spare time activities.

The aims of youth help were formulated in a statement by the Federal government on the fifth Youth Report (1980) which presented a survey over the whole range of youth help. Youth help is intended to support young people in developing their gifts and capacities; it is supposed to help them in exercising their own rights and pursuing their own interests while respecting the rights of others and make clear to them their duties in relation to their fellow men, the family, society and the state. Young people should be motivated to cooperate"in the building of the state and society."

The book of social legislation sets out the fields of activity of youth help: without restricting the parents' rights and duties in the care and education of their children, the Youth help acts as an independent educational body in support of the family home, the schools and the vocational training colleges. Educational help - a new term for youth welfare - includes voluntary educational help, social welfare education, guardianship and protective care as well as well as youth tribunal assistance.

"Youth care" has been supplanted in recent times more and more by the term "Youth work." This covers all the available learning and socialisation assistance outside the schools and vocational training, which means, for instance, help in choosing a career through advice, introduction to vocations and procuring jobs and vocational education work. Educational assistance during the preparation for a vocation, training and after are included under "Youth social work."

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The sphere of youth protection also falls under youth help. This includes youth protective measures imposed as punishment by the courts of law, youth labour protection and the laws respecting youth protection in public as well as the distribution of printed matter likely to endanger youth.

Youth protection under criminal law is regulated in the Federal Republic of Germany by the Juvenile Court law (JJG). This defines a young person as one who at the time the offence was committed was 14 years old but not 18. From the age of 18 the young person is fully answerable before the law, that is to say he is held responsible for his actions. Until he is 21 however a young person can still be sentenced under the young persons criminal law if the offence is "a typical youthful misdemeanour." This is also the case if the "moral and mental development" of the accused at the time of the offence are those of a young person. The law regards persons between the ages of 18 and 21 as in the process of "growing up."

Young persons are protected by law because they are regarded as not being so able to protect themselves as adults. Their health may not be endangered and their development not disturbed. To this end the Federal Republic of Germany has a young persons labour protection law. It applies to the employment of persons who are under 18 years of age. Under the age of 14 they are regarded as children. Child labour is forbidden on principle in the Federal Republic. The minimum age at which youth may be employed by contract is 15. The law for the employment of young people regulates all aspects such as working hours, length of holidays and shift times but it also lays down the types of employment that are forbidden or restricted, e.g. in mining or other dangerous trades. All the duties of the employer towards young persons including care of their health are precisely set out.

The youth protection law is designed to avert possible dangers that children might be exposed to in public but which their parents can do nothing about. The law forbids the sale or dispensing of hard alcohol to young persons under 18 and regulates entry to public houses and discotheques; young persons under 18 may not enter night bars or night clubs. The inclusion of video films in youth protection measures is new. To bring the law up to date it was amended on April 1, 1985. All video films and records must be submitted by the Land (state) Minister of Youth to the voluntary censorship office of the film industry in Wiesbaden for examination. They can then be released for particular age groups. (8)

Since that date there has been a geneal ban in the Federal Republic of Germany on video films that glorify violence or violate human dignity.

State encouragement

Depending on who carries out the measures a distinction is made in the Federal Republic of Germany between public and independent youth help.

Public youth help comprises all public authority measures for furthering youth welfare. These are carried out by the youth offices, the Land (state) youth offices and the chief youth authorities in the Federal Laender (states).

Youth offices exist in the Federal Republic in every regional administration. A youth office is composed of the youth welfare committee and members of the administration of the area concerned. The committee consists of members of the local council; they should be men and women from all sections of the population who are experienced or active in youth welfare. Other committee members are representatives of youth associations and independent organisations of youth welfare, the mayor or council chairman, the head of the administration of the youth office, a doctor from the health office, representatives of the churches and the Jewish community as well as judges from the guarianship, families and youth courts. The youth welfare law defines the tasks of the youth office in detail. Under the law the youth office must give a young person all "necessary help towards education." If a minor is living outside the family home (in a public home for instance) the youth office is responsible for the financial maintenance.

The Land (State) youth offices on the level of the Federal states support and coordinate the work of the local youth offices with the independent organisations of youth help. One of their tasks is the voluntary educational help and the social care educational measures as well as the supervision of under-age inmates of homes.

The Land authorities in the Federal Laender that are responsible for youth questions draft laws and promulgate supplementary ordinances, carry out the law on youth help, give directions for the carrying out of youth help in practice; they also have the function of supervising the youth offices and the Land youth offices and finally they provide financial support for youth welfare plans (for example, the Land youth plans, fostering training and

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advanced training etc.).

Certain general tasks have been given to the youth offices, the Land youth offices and the chief Land authority, for example, informing the public about the situation of youth and youth help. This sometimes leads to overlapping but conflicts as to who is responsible are avoided inasmuch as the joint tasks prescribed by law are allocated according to the original task of the respective authorities: The chief Land authority "merely" governs and in principle leaves all other tasks to the Land youth offices and the youth offices - depending on the type of task and its regional significance. The Land youth office is also only supposed to come into action when the youth offices need its encouragement and support to carry out their own tasks. The job of the Land youth offices is accordingly mainly of an administrative nature, like, for example, laying down guide lines in order to standardise the activity of the youth offices in its area; or they advise the youth offices in the field of youth welfare.

The influence of the Federal government on youth help is limited to the overall legislation. In accordance with the Youth Welfare law the Federal parliament and the Federal Upper House (Chamber of the Laender) are informed in every legislative period by the so-called "Youth Report" about the situation and the volume of youth help. Federal support, because of the constitutional division of powers between the Federal government and the Laender (states), embraces only measures of a supra-regional character. Among these are central organisations whose sphere of activity covers the Federal Republic as a whole as well as all-German and international tasks. Federal financial expenditure in connection with youth help in the past 15 years has amounted to 1.4 billion DM. At first in 1970 it reached 80 million DM, in 1980 it rose to 280 million DM and since then it has remained on this level. In 1983 the Federation, the Laender and local authorities spent 5.7 billion DM on public youth help. In 1984 total expenditure increased to about six billion DM. Of this two billion DM were devoted to children's day nurseries, 1.6 billion DM to home-care, 605 million DM to voluntary educational help and social care education, 431 million DM to recreational care and leisure help as well as 242 million DM to consultation in questions of marriage, family and youth.

The most important instrument of youth policy is the Federal youth

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plan. The first Federal youth plan was announced in Bonn by the first Federal President Theodor Heuss. Within the limits of the plan the Federal government can "stimulate and encourage efforts insofar as they are important in the realisation of the task of helping youth and go beyond the obligations of the youth offices and Land authorities." The finance provided to the Federal youth plan increased between 1975 and 1985 from 84 to 135 million DM.

For years the building of places for young persons to live (especially student hostels) had priority but now it is the political education of young people and the aim is that they should enlarge their knowledge of society and the state. Many activities of youth associations are supported from these funds. Bodies receiving a direct state subsidy include the working group for youth help in Bonn, the Catholic working group for social work among youth (Duesseldorf), the German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR) in Bonn and the German sport for youth group in the German Sports Federation in Frankfurt on Main. The member associations of the Federal Youth Ring and the Ring of political youth and other youth associations as well as youth hostels are also supported with funds from the Federal youth plan. Financial aid can also be obtained for particular projects aimed at fostering the social commitment of young people.

The Federal youth plan lays particular emphasis on furthering international youth work. The intention of this is not only to contribute to international understanding between people but also to make young people aware that safeguarding peace and social justice is not only a national problem. Through meeting persons of other nationalities it is hoped that young people will shed certain prejudices which they have taken over uncritically due to faulty bringing up and discover things in common. This aim is promoted by means of youth exchanges and through courses and voluntary work abroad.

During the international year of youth the Federal government has supported numerous centrally organised arrangements. Among the projects supported were many investigations, presentations and collections of statistical material helping to make clear the special problems of young people. For the counselling and coordination of the arrangements in the year of youth the Federal Minister for Youth, Families and Health appointed a national commission.

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Activities of the National Commission

The National commission for the international year of youth was called into existence in 1983 by the former Minister for Youth, Families and Health, Heiner Geissler. This commission comprised 20 persons specially chosen from youth associations and organisations, welfare associations, national associations of local authorities, youth research and from the Federal Families Ministry.

The role of the commission was not so much to initiate and prepare various activities as to carry out public relations by making people aware of what was going on and motivating them. It also supported particular activities of individual executants by giving political and organisational help. The results of the various activities were collected and analysed. The commission also coordinated national and international discussions.

The commission contacted politicians and institutions to bring them into touch with youth - not only during the year of youth.

The commission seeks to promote the active participation of youth in social life. "This requires frankness about the demands and ideas formulated by young people."

The term "development" is directed at the young people's chances of a future. The basic precondition of this is the family. The family as a unit must be strengthened. In considering the possibilities for improving the situation of young people so far as education, vocational training and employment are concerned, attention must be given to seeing that the introduction of new technology also opens "new chances for the future" for young people. The disadvantages that young people encounter "because of their national or social origins, their sex or on account of physical, mental or psychological handicaps" must be removed.

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On the subject of peace the national commission states in its constitution that the conditions for the cooperation of youth in the construction of a peaceful future are "that the commitment of youth to peace should be allowed for and that the ability of our society to settle conflicts of interest by peaceful means should be exercised and strengthened. Refusal to discuss, reluctance to compromise and riding over the interests of the weaker party impose severe internal social stresses on efforts to teach and to learn the capacity for peace."

Contacts between youth in both German states should be reinforced.

The youth associations

Among the independent organisations for youth help are the associations for youth welfare (e.g. Workers Welfare, German Caritas association, German Red Cross) as well as youth associations and other bodies. The Federal Republic of Germany has religious youth associations (e.g. Federation of German Catholic Youth - BDKJ), youth organisations based on work (e.g. Trade Union youth movement in the German Trade Union Federation), sports organisation (e.g. German sporting youth) workers youth organisations (e.g. Socialist youth of Germany - the Falcons), the young Red Cross, Boy Scouts, leisure and rambler organisations and finally the youth organisations of the political parties - Young Union (CDU), JUSOS (SPD) and JULIS (F.D.P.).

About 50 per cent of young persons in the Federal Republic belong to youth associations. In 1985 26 million DM was donated by the Federal youth plan to these youth asssociations, which are banded together in the German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR). The 11 Land youth rings of the German Federal Laender (states) also belong to the DBJR. The aim of their work is to represent the interests of youth in relation to parliament, the government and the public. "We in the DBJR have tried with our means to contribute to answering the particularly urgent questions. In the field of youth unemployment we have endeavoured to coordinate the experiences of individual youth associations with new forms of self-organisation, self-help and a new relationship between work, leisure, living and learning. We have perhaps succeeded in extending the debate on these subjects to all the associations." This is how the DBJR itself sees its role.

Initiatives undertaken in the International Year of Youth (IJJ)

The different youth associations and youth rings have been responsible for numerous decentralised activities during the IJJ. The Land youth rings issued practical tips on arrangements. The programme of the Land youth ring of Lower Saxony comprised 70 pages of suggestions, announcements and tips for special activities. The state of Hessen was also very active.

Lower Saxony's programme was intended to reach as many young persons and social institutions as possible and persuade the latter to concern themselves more with the situation of youth. The aim of all their activities was to demolish the image of youth as a "disturbing element." The young person should be "accepted and fostered as a constructive and developing force in our society." The chief theme of all the seminars was "the development of plans for furthering youth" and the "possibilities for youth representatives in local community administration. By means of a mobile exhibition "Forty years after the end of World War II" the attempt was made to put topical questions concerning the safeguarding of peace in a historical perspective for discussion. Young people and parliamentarians met each other for discussions in the evenings.

The contribution of the Hessen youth ring in the IJJ is a brochure on youth unemployment and youth work. "The tone of the discussion should not be given by ceremonial speeches and glossy brochures," said the committee, "but by day-today youth work and youth policy reflected in the further development of practical measures that will provide concrete help for youth and open up political perspectives." The brochure contains information about the practical help provided by self-organised training groups, youth workshop projects and independent unemployed initatives.

Individual youth associations and project groups have tried for years to create training places. The aim is not only to get the young unemployed "off the street" but to support young people in the development of new and meaningful perspectives in their lives and careers and to assist them in taking an initiative that will lead further.

One example frequently quoted is the workshop run by the self-help group in Darmstadt. It is a local enterprise formed by teachers, former development-aid helpers, craftsmen, engineers, social teachers and university members. Since August, 1984 they have been training boys and girls to become factory fitters and electricians. Their motto is: seek new ways, react flexibly, search for the consensus in the community and decide jointly. In this spirit the association intends to promote a similar self-help enterprise among foreign youth.

Since 1984 the Land government of Hessen has promoted not only many advice centres but the establishment of workshops as well as several training projects and self-help enterprises for unemployed youth. In 1984 it provided 600,000 DM. Hessen is endeavouring to give the workshops a material and legal basis on which they can build for the future.

Local initiative

Most of the enterprises and activities in the Federal Republic of Germany during the International Year of Youth took place principally on the local level.
Under the motto "Work for youth - Future for us" the youth welfare committee of the town of Gelsenkirchen organised a week of action. Funds of 250,000 DM were made available. Young people aged from 15 to 22 were invited to write essays about their wishes, fears, ideas about a career, the future and their chances of success. The aim of this competition was to motivate young people to think about this subject. About 200 took part in the competition. Their work showed that youth today are intensely aware of the unemployment problem in their age group.

The first prize went to a group from the Catholic youth home, St. Michael. The 16year old school pupils had created a sculpture in which they sought to express "how the increasing deployment of computers is turning jobs, workers and tools into scrap." The sculpture showed a model computer chiselled out of gas-beton stone on top of a mound of modelling clay. Modelled into the clay were the various tools which the computer had already devoured. The computer as destroyer of jobs.

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The 19 organisers of youth vocation help showed their various projects by means of a film-slide show. The organisations included not only the vocational training schools but the German Trade Union Federation, the Labour Office, the churches, the Retail trade association and the town council itself. Visitors to the exhibition were given an insight into their work and activities.

The international motto "Cooperation" was taken to heart by the town of Weingarten in Baden-Wuerttemberg. For some time already serious efforts had been made to take account of the needs of youth in the administration of the town. For several years the town council has set aside a period during its meetings as a "question hour" for youth. The IJJ was taken as an opportunity to expand the idea. Young people were encouraged to elect their own town council so they would take a deeper interest and participate in local politics. They were prepared beforehand in their civic affairs lessons in school. Teachers explained how to vote and how votes are counted. In addition they received leaflets from the town explaining the voting system. They also busied themselves with subjects such as protection of the environment, local knowledge, the house of youth and the various associations for youth open to them, all of which were discussed together with their teachers. Four lists were displayed at all the schools with the names of 90 candidates. The 800 pupils elected 26 of these to the "council."

So that the elected council members could get to know each other better and obtain a glimpse into the work of the town administration the young local politicians were invited to a guided tour of the buildings where the different departments of the administration were explained to them. In conclusion they inspected the council chamber itself and were initiated into the procedure (list of speakers, how to "ask for the floor" and make formal proposals). The order of seating was settled and the microphone system explained.

Since then the young people have been chasing after subjects for debate like puppies in a park - improving local transport services, cycle paths for schoolchildren, planting fruit trees on school lawns, recycling rubbish, animals in the town park, car-less zones and a house of youth have all been dealt with. Citizens spokesman Robert Wiedemann said: "A lot of good proposals came out of it."

One further action deserves particular mention. It ook place in the sphere of international meetings. Under the slogan "Commitment to development develops the personality.", French and German young people worked for three weeks with their guardians in a work camp in Fada N'Gourma in Bourkina Faso (former Ober-Volta). In the mornings they were out planting or renovating the old school building. In the afternoons they took part in personal, cultural or sporting engagements. This support project was organised by a French social establishment, the "Maison pour Tous" in Epernay, the partner-town of Ettlingen (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

The young people from Ettlingen were well-prepared: following an intensive language course in French and geographical seminars they went to Epernay for a weekend to meet their young French partners. Here they got to know each other and discussed the project. "It is not supposed to be a cheap holiday nor is it a tourist trip," a guardian told them. "The participants will experience personally the pusling life of an African village and develop the ability to inform themselves about all the thousand little things that make up the life of a different people."

Examining the hundreds of projects and activities which take place in the Federal Republic of Germany, not only in the International Year of Youth, the observer very soon realises that young Germans are not "a negative generation" as they are sometimes called. "In the young generation of today we can count on a lot of readiness to undertake commitments and sense of responsibility, especially over and beyond the material side of life, " said Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in October, 1985, at the Congress "Responsibility for Youth - Education in the democratic state" which took place in Bonn. "Nobody looking around the country with an open eye can fail to notice the commitment of students and schoolchildren, religious groups and others, for the Third World, Aid for Poland or for handicapped children. This commitment - in my youth it was called idealism - is a contemporary expression of a basic attitude which has a long tradition in German cultural, intellectual and political history.

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Foreign youth in the Federal Republic of Germany

"The problems of young foreigners in developing their own personalities," the Inquiry report states, "call for a clear readiness on the part of our society to accept completely those who are ready for it."

More and more foreigners are growing up in the Federal Republic of Germany from very early childhood and in some cases have been born here. They grow up in an atmosphere of tension pulled by different cultures and traditions. Because of this their education and their training requires special attention. Their vocational training is of special importance because as a result of demographic developments the number of German school-leavers in years to come will be reduced to almost half of that today and one must reckon with a critical shortage of youth able to take the place of skilled workers. In a very short time it will be difficult to fill all the available trainee places with suitable candidates even though further rationalisation may reduce the total number of trainees required as well as jobs available. The fostering and integration of foreign children and young persons is therefore in the interests of the German national economy.

The Federal government has made a "package" offer that includes the following programme: Intensive courses in the German language lasting from between three and six months to prepare young foreigners for social integration and entering a vocation. This is termed the MSBE programme and its aim is to lead the foreigner up to a recognised career. He or she not only gets a practical preparation for a job in various fields, they also continue learning German, they receive more instruction at a vocational school and are looked after by social welfare personnel. The MSBE programme lasts one year.

Because of language difficulties many young foreigners cannot meet the demands made on them. So the Federal Ministry for Education and Science has organised a so-called "handicapped programme" which offers them a chance of being trained in separate establishments outside the normal industrial works.

In the educational field the Federation is cooperating on a trial model programme run by a national commission for educational planning and research promotion, 50 per cent of which is financed by the Education Ministry. The aim of the programme is to facili-

tate the transition from the normal school to vocational education.

International aspects
Example of the German-French youth scheme

There has never been such an intensive exchange of youth between two states as between the Federal Republic of Germany and France in the last 20 years.

The German-French youth scheme (DFJW) was established in 1963 in the framework of the government treaty on German-French ccoperation. According to Article 2 the agreement on the German-French youth scheme was aimed at tightening the bonds between the youth of both countries and deepen their understanding of each other. The task of the scheme's administrators was to stimulate meetings and exchanges of young people from both countries, to further these and if necessary organise them directly. Since 1963 over four million young Germans and French have taken part in more than 90,000 events promoted by the youth scheme in the Federal Republic and France.

The youth scheme has access to a joint fund contributed by both governments equally. In 1985 the DFJW had 38 million DM available. The contributions became smaller during the Sixties and Seventies mainly because of the currency losses of the Franc. But since 1977 (the lowest point so far with 26 million DM) the governments have increased their contributions.

Over the years the DFJW has developed a wide range of exchanges. Group visits of school pupils, students, trainees and young workers as well as study and work visits. The offers are varied. They extend from language learning, teacher training, research, working holidays and "au-pair" exchanges. Stipends are offered for artists and practical work for young journalists.

So as to offer as widespread a programme as possible the DFJW works together with youth associations, youth offices, sports associations, trade unions, chambers, educational authorities, general and vocational schools, universities, language institutes, partnership committees, towns and Federal Laender.

For some years now young people from other countries in the European Community have been invited to programmes of the German-French youth scheme.

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ABC of youth

Foreign youth:

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are 4.5 million foreigners (September 1983). Almost half of the foreign young people between 15 and 25 years of age are Turks (about 300,000). The second biggest group are the Italians (about 110,000). About 49,000 young people come from Greece.

Federal training promotion law:

Known under the abbreviation BAfoeG. Through this law the state supports school pupils and students whose economic position or that of their parents makes it hard to exercise a free choice of training or career. The legislators tried in this way to make a contribution to equality of opportunity in education. Since the winter term 1983/84 students receive BAfoeG payments only in form of a loan which however carries no interest. The sums paid, depending on the requirement for training and living costs, vary between 490 DM and 660 DM.

Federal youth plan:

This is the kernel of the Federal government's youth policy. By means of the Federal youth plan it supports help for youth. In 1985 135.5 million DM were supplied.

German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR):

This is a joint working group of youth associations. It has 20 member-associations, 11 Land youth rings and two attached associations. The aim of its work is to represent the interests of youth in relation to parliament, the government and the public.

German-French youth scheme:

Exists since 1963. It fosters contacts between young German and young French persons

Youth office:

The local or regional authority that carries out the task of looking after youth welfare.

Youth work

(see youth care)

Youth-labour protection law:

Covers the employment of young people under 18 years of age. This law is designed to protect the mental and physical health of young people. The full duties of the employer in this respect are precisely set out.

Youth report:

Report of an independent commission on the situation of youth help. This report is presented to the Federal government in every legislative period.

Youth care:

Is the work of looking after or helping young people who are in need of protection, endangered, damaged or neglected.

Young persons court law:

Regulates in the Federal Republic of Germany the protection of young persons in criminal law proceedings.

Youth homes:

Are established by youth associations and churches. They usually organise leisure activities for a certain number of hours, for example a tearoom, sport, a literary circle and music or work courses.

Youth help:

Measures for promoting youth welfare. Youth help consists of taking care of youth and fostering youth.

Youth care (Youth work)

In essence it is an independent and voluntary activity, which means it operates in that area which is not covered by the family, the church or the school. Whereas social welfare for youth is determined by legal regulations and the public authorities (local, district and state), the main emphasis in fostering youth lies in the social independence of the young people concerned. It is mainly carried out through youth associations which are self-elected.

Youth protection law:

This restricts the dispensing of alcohol to young persons and their entry into public entertainment bars. Since April 1, 1985 the law has been widened to control video films.

Youth social work

Educational help during the preparations for a career, vocational training and after.

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Youth criminal law:

A branch of German criminal law, the regulations of which take account of the diminished responsibility of youthful offenders.

Youth associations:

Organisations on a religious, political or cultural basis (see German Youth Ring)

Vocational training law:

It regulates all rights and obligations of trainees and those who are training them, for example, the qualifications of the masters or the duty of the trainee to attend the vocational school.

Vocational school:

All young persons under 18 who are undergoing vocational training are subject to the law compelling them to attend the vocational school until the conclusion of their training even if they are then over 18. On one or more days in the week the pupils receive general or special teaching which takes account of their vocational training.

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(IN-Press)

Addresses

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Kennedyallee 91

5300 Bonn 2

Federal Ministry for Education and Science
Heinemannstrasse 2

5300 Bonn 2

Federal Minister for Labour and Social Order
Rochusstrasse 1

5300 Bonn 1

Federal Central Office for Political Education
Berliner Freiheit 7

5300 Bonn 1

Commissioner of the Federal government for the integration of foreign workers and their families
Lengsdorfer Hauptstrasse 78

5300 Bonn 1

German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR)
Haager Weg 44

5300 Bonn 1

German-French Youth scheme
Rhoendorferstrasse 23
5340 Bad Honnef 1

Youth helps Youth e.V.
Contact address: Eckbert Gritz
Koenigsheimer Strasse 12

(This is a self-help organisation of former members of youth sects)

5300 Bonn 3

Youth holiday scheme (JEW)
An der Paulskirche 4

3300 Braunschweig

German Society for International Youth Exchange (non profitmaking)
Postfach 17414

6000 Frankfurt on Main
(International meetings, language courses, group holiday travel in Germany, France and Great Britain).

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